

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/767,556

Examiner

Lynda M Salvatore

Applicant(s)

DREES ET AL.

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview held on March 17th, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-56.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas Eveleigh on April 14, 2004.

2. IN THE CLAIMS (amendment 12/24/03)

Delete the word "Amended" and insert the word "Presented" in claim identifiers 1,5,6,7, and 14.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments presented during a telephonic interview on March 17th, 2004 regarding the lack of motivation to combine the references of Min and Eckart et al., are found persuasive. Specifically, Applicant maintains an earlier argument that Min fails to teach or suggest a PETG core layer bonded to a thermosetting resin impregnated cellulosic material. Min only teaches the use of fibrous core materials. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-19 and 53-56 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Min, US 6,093,473 in view of Eckart et al., US 5,643,666 is hereby withdrawn. As such, claims 1-19 and 53-56 are now found patently distinguishable over the prior art of record for reasons set forth herein below.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 1-19 and 53-56 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Official Gazette notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 O.G. 86), claims 20-52 directed to the decorative laminate assembly product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are now subject to being rejoined. Claims 20-52 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement filed 08/22/02 is hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: 1-56

Specifically, the prior art of Min and Eckart et al., fails to teach or fairly suggest a decorative laminate comprising the following superimposed relationship: a decorative layer comprising a thermosetting resin impregnated cellulosic material and a core layer comprising polyethylene terephthalate glycol. Min teaches only the use of resin impregnated fibrous core materials and the patent issued to Eckart et al., which teaches PETG as an outer layer, fails to supply the necessary motivation to combine references to produce the product of the instant invention. An updated art search did not produce any new substantial art for which to base a rejection and presently no motivation exists to combine references to form an obvious type rejection. Thus, claims 1-56 are found allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynda M Salvatore whose telephone number is 571-272-1482. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

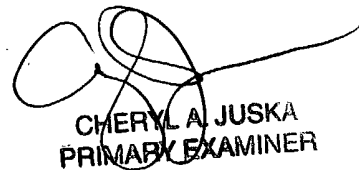
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1482. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 19th, 2004

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CHERYL A. JUSKA
PRIMARY EXAMINER